

(d) if so, the date of its introduction and the reasons for delay in passing this Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) to (d) Government has introduced the 'Freedom of Information Bill, 2000' in the Lok Sabha on July 25, 2000. The Bill, as introduced in the Lok Sabha and pending therein, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report thereon. The Standing Committee has since presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on July 25, 2001. The recommendations made by the Committee are under examination. Decision to move a motion to get the Bill passed will be taken by the Government thereafter.

Lifting Freeze on LTC

1322. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for lifting freeze on LTC for the Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Relay Hunger Dharna by CSS Members

1323. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) are on relay hunger dharna for more than 400 days just behind the Parliament House for redressal of their grievances pertaining to removal of stagnation and pay scales;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not called their representative for resolving the issues through discussion;

(c) whether a Committee of Senior Officers, which was constituted in February, 2001 to look into their problems has not submitted its report till today even after obtaining three extensions; and

(d) if so, how and by when Government propose to resolve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A Committee of Senior Officers was set up on 28.2.2001 to go into the cadre structure of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS). The Committee not only invited the written memoranda from various CSS associations, but also gave personal hearing to their representatives. In view of the enormous work involved, the tenure of the Committee has now been extended up to the end of February, 2002 with the approval of the competent authority. The Government will give due consideration to the recommendations made by this Committee, when received.

GCS (Ministerial) Posts in Ministries

1324. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of GCS (Ministerial) posts equivalent to Under Secretary/Deputy Secretary/Director in each Ministry/Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that duties/responsibilities of these posts are similar to that of CSS;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these posts, which are mostly held by CSS officers on deputation, do not have cadre and are responsibility-wise akin to CSS; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non-encadrement of these posts to CSS for smooth cadre management inspite of repeated requests from CSS Officers' Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) The information regarding posts included in General Central Service (Ministerial) is not centrally maintained since such posts are organization specific.